7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut mm2

still far below anything within living memory prior to 1948–49. In consequence there has been no surplus for export from the Qu'aiti coast, the Qu'aiti merchants having had, in fact, to import much of the small surplus from the Mahra coast for consumption inland. 228

Six fishery statistical posts have been established on the Qu'aiti coast in the Eastern Aden Protectorate and three in the Abyan area of the Western Aden Protectorate. They are financed by His Majesty's Government through the Fishery Department, but are administered by the states in which they are situated.

Because of the poor fishing seasons plans for promoting the export trade have been postponed. Preliminary trials are in hand for salt-curing sardines on the Eastern Aden Protectorate coast, to provide a cheap protein food for the agricultural labourers in the Wadi Hadhramaut and the Abyan area. The first small batches of fish were very well received. Now larger quantities are being tested for keeping qualities, as the most acute shortage of cured fish occurs during the summer when no sardines are being caught. At present the poorest people eat the dirty and rancid sun-dried sardines in the wadi and semi-putrid small fishes in Abyan. 228 258 262

A scheme is in preparation at Shihr, on the Qu'aiti coast, for mechanising the local fishing sambuks with outboard motors. These craft are sewn together with coir twine and are too flexible to take a normal inboard installation, but by fitting a flat hog in place of the keel, it is possible to ship an outboard motor through a trunk. The Qu'aiti State has financed a loan to a selected fisherman with which he will purchase the first sambuk and outboard. The sambuk is now being altered under Fishery Department supervision, and the Aden agents have the engine waiting. 501 228 654

An interesting development on the Qu'aiti coast is the building at Mukalla, for a local merchant, by Italian engineers and technicians, of a cannery with a capacity of from 500 to 1,500 yellow-fin tunny per day. This merchant has also recently brought an 80-ft. diesel-engined fishing vessel from Italy as well as two small motor launches. The cannery is in operation and samples opened have proved to be excellent. It is to be hoped that the project succeeds, as it is not only a bold step deserving of success as such, but also a source of local employment and of exports, both of which are needed in that area. 255 228

Chapter 8: Social Services

EDUCATION

General

Education in common with other services is under the immediate general guidance of the British Agents. The Aden Government Department of Education gives such advice and assistance as is required, and co-ordinates, so far as is possible, educational development throughout 871

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Hadhramaut MM2

frenzy on religious matters, and ever ready to accuse any one, whose actions are not readily explained, of being an infidel, are apt to be rather slack in their devotions. Some even shirk their prayers at sunset, when such exercises are obligatory. Much of this attitude, however, has to do with their turbulent mode of life and illiteracy, for the most nonchalant are always ready to "fall in" behind any man who has the gift of prayer and follow his attitude and genuflexions, giving the responses with devout accuracy and attention. As to the religious self-denial with which they observe the fast of Ramadan (refusing to avail themselves of the exemption extended by the Koran to all travellers, sick persons, &c.) their austerity would shame more civilized Mussulmans.'

Products and Industries

The products of this region are so similar to those of the Yemen that they need no special treatment; and the crops are referred to in detail in the section on climate. The staple food-stuff of the country is either *dhura* or *dukhn*. Of *dhura* there are two chief varieties: white and red. The staple fodder for animals is, universally, the stalks and leaves of *dhura* and *dukhn*. As to the native industries they are not of any great importance, but attention may be called to the following:

Boat-building is carried on to a limited extent. Though a very great number of native craft of very varied type ply in Aden harbour and around the coast of this district, only 'jolly-boats' are built at Aden; they are after the model of an English rowing-boat, with heavier and stronger frames, and of very rough workmanship. Mat-making and string-making are carried on chiefly in the neighbourhood of Aden. Dry leaves of the *dom* and date-palms are imported from the ports of the Dankali and from Musawwa', and are manufactured into mats. String is also made by twisting the leaves together with the hand; this is called 'Aden string'. To make mats the leaves are divided into small strips, which are plaited into a ribbon three or four inches wide and of great length. The ribbon is stitched or spliced spirally into a cylindrical shape, the circumference representing the required breadth, and the axis the necessary length; this hollow cylinder is then cut down with a knife parallel to the axis, and the broken edges are bound. Somali women are exceedingly expert in the manufacture of such mats, which are in great request for sleeping purposes. The coarser kinds are largely used for the construction of sheds and the roofing of houses. Plates, baskets, sacks, and many other articles are made of such strips of matting.